

LODI HISTORIAN

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Lodi's Pioneer-Era Hotels

The first hotel in Mokelumne was the Hooker House. Having served the mining camps of, first, Lancha Plana, and then in 1861, Campo Seco, it was being moved down the Mokelumne River on its way to a new town called Dover. While waiting in Woodbridge for the river to rise, "Uncle Dan" Crist decided to move the building to Mokelumne and placed it on the southeast corner of Sacramento Street and what was later called Lockeford Street. It was a long, one-story building very close to the railroad.

The hotel opened for business in the fall of 1869. By the 17th of November, the first post office was located in the hotel and Dan Crist was appointed the first postmaster.

Business was so good that in January 1870, James E. Spencer was engaged to build an addition to the hotel.

In September of the same year, Mr. Spencer and John Flanagan commenced the building of their own hotel. They obtained R. Leffler and Co. as contractor for this job.

The Spencer House was completed early in 1871 and opened for business in February with James A. Barry and Edward Olwell as joint managers.

Olwell and Barry occupied the hotel one year and then Mr. Spencer became manager as well as owner.

The Spencer House was a two story building on the southwest corner of Sacramento and Pine streets, facing the east. An upper balcony enhanced the appearance of the hotel and proved a quiet place to relax, and an advantageous spot to view what was taking place in the downtown area.

In the days when Lodi was young, a hotel held a unique position in a

town's social existence. It was the center of such affairs as dinner parties, balls and holiday celebrations. For the traveling public such as salesmen, it was not just a place to wine and dine but was their home away from home.

With the prosperity of the Spencer House, the Hooker House business decreased tremendously, for after 1872 it was used as a private residence.

The successful owner and manager was an extraordinary man of very large physical proportions, having a long beard and a short credit. Mr. Spencer had the gift of voluble and plausible speech. He used his talent for public enterprise. In 1875 he became the first secretary of the Mokelumne Ditch and Irrigation Co.

The highlight of each social year was the Christmas season. The program took place at the local churches, but the big Christmas ball was at the hotel. It was a large assembly, good music, bountiful supper, very pleasant ladies elegantly dressed, and gallant gentlemen.

In 1880, the Spencer House had little competition as the most popular hotel in Lodi. One of the big social affairs at the hotel in 1881 was the celebration of the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Allen T. Ayers. Mrs. Ayers was the former Julia Wheeler while Mr. Ayers was one of the first settlers and a founder of Lodi. Incidentally, this large gathering was in the form of a surprise party for Mr. and Mrs. Ayers. And, indeed, it was a genuine surprise. "Mr. and Mrs. Ayers were invited to spend the evening at Mr. Lawrence's with a social party of friends and never guessed it was all a ruse until about seven o'clock when they received an invitation to call at The Spencer House, there to find a



James E. Spencer, left, builder and proprietor of The Spencer House with Lodi's first butcher, William D. Smith.

host of friends, awaiting their arrival, who met them with pleasant greetings and warm congratulations." At nine o'clock they were escorted to the hall where the Lodi Cornet Band was playing the wedding march. Here the couple were reunited in marriage by Rev. Stewart of the Congregational church. After this followed a speech by Ralph Ellis who presented the couple with a handsome silver tea set, the gift of their many friends.

The floor was cleared for dancing, a quadrille was formed and the dancing continued 'til eleven o'clock when guests were invited to the dining room "where a bountiful collection that consisted of every variety known to the culinary art, provided by the fair hands of our fair matrons for this occasion, awaited them. Five long tables were spread, the center one arranged for the bridal couple in the following manner: a floral arch spanned the space under which the groom and bride were to sit. The columns were formed of trailing vines loaded with their fragrant blossoms of roses and honeysuckles. The initials for Allen Ayers and Julia Wheeler were cut from silver cards and were embedded in either column, while the arch bore the expressive dates 1856-1881. From the arch was suspended a floral horseshoe the flowers being white roses on one side and pink on the other, pansies forming the nail heads."

The banquet being dispensed with, toasts and speeches followed 'til the guests returned to the hall where dancing prevailed until two o'clock.

The list of guests included those of prominence in Lodi in 1881.

Incidentally, at The Spencer House was a popular Chinese cook by the name of Sam Ling. It is interesting to note that within a few years Chinese help was in disrepute, and their employers received severe castigations from the Anti-Chinese Non-Partisan Club of Lodi for not giving employment to white labor. This was the state of affairs in 1886.

James E. Spencer sold his hotel to the Sargent brothers April 13, 1882 and the hostelry was taken over by the new manager, T. A. Wilson, June 1, 1882.

In the Lodi Sentinel of Feb. 28, 1883 it is noted that Mrs. J. E. Spencer and daughter, Ida, left that morning to make their home near Mills Seminary in Alameda county. They left with the good wishes of many friends they had

made while residing in Lodi. Whether Mr. Spencer preceded them to the Oakland area or came at a later date is not known.

The remarkable Sargent brothers, noted for their varied activities and especially for their outstanding work in reclaiming the Delta land west of Lodi, bought The Spencer House from James E. Spencer. Roswell Sargent apparently held the controlling interest.

With a change in ownership came a change in name, the hotel having acquired the title of The Sargent House.

After buying the hotel, the Sargent brothers looked for a manager to run the place. For nearly two weeks, C. A. Dickerson of Lodi appears to have taken over the management until a permanent man could be obtained.

Thomas A. Wilson, who became manager for the Sargent brothers' hotel on June 1, 1882, was a former assessor of Stanislaus County from whence he came to Lodi. He had considerable experience in the hotel business and, also, for a number of years he had engaged in farming in Stanislaus County. However, as his crops didn't prove fruitful, he changed his occupation.

After coming to Lodi, Wilson formed a partnership with J. W. Dougherty in the livery stable business, this providing a helpful service to hotel guests.

Soon, after arriving in Lodi, Mr. & Mrs. Wilson began social festivities at the hotel by inviting fifteen couples to be their guests at a dancing party. Houseman's band furnished the music. This was followed by a grand

ball at the hotel on Oct. 27, 1882.

Mr. Wilson's stay in Lodi was limited to less than ten months, consequently, little is recorded about him, his family or events taking place at The Sargent House. According to W. H. Lawrence in his 1885 *History of Lodi*, he accounts for Mr. Wilson's short stay at the hotel to a lack of economy and insufficient experience in the hotel business.

In April 1883 a local paper recounts a farewell social given T. A. Wilson and family by the Lodi Athletic Club. The affair was held in the hall over J. W. Dougherty's livery stable. About twenty-five couples were present to enjoy the pastime of the evening which was dancing. Music was furnished by Sam Obarr, J. O. Walling, J. W. Dougherty and Waite Obarr.

Following Thomas A. Wilson, as manager of The Sargent House, beginning in the spring of 1883, was Mr. A. Lutz. He was a hotel man of experience having been proprietor of The Columbia House which was located on the northwest corner of Channel and San Joaquin streets in Stockton. The directory for San Joaquin County of 1878 gives Lutz as the head of this hotel. It also states that single meals are 25¢; board by the week, \$4; lodging, 25¢ per night; board with lodging, \$5 a week and board with a single room, \$5.50 per week.

One of the first steps Mr. Lutz took, after taking over the hotel, was to have it completely renovated, and refurnished "In the most costly and elegant manner. Everything connected with it



Sacramento Street in front of the Sargent House, sometime before 1900.

insures the comfort and congeniality of guests and the traveling public. Mr. Lutz, being an old hotel man, possesses the numerous qualifications which are essential to one catering to the gastronomic desires of the public. All delicacies of the season are served at Sunday dinners. In connection with the house is an excellent bar furnished with wines, liquors and cigars."

"The Lodi Patriot," of July fourth, 1883, states that Mr. Lutz has made the hostelry one of the most popular country hotels in the state. "He understands how to please the public and he spares no trouble in doing so."

Board at the Sargent House was \$4 to \$5 per week, and French dinners were served every Sunday and were advertised as being cheaper than one could get at home. Parties wishing to get up suppers could be accommodated at very short notice. As of September, 1883, the dining room had been repainted and was spoken of as one of the best in the county. In 1884 the following advertisement appeared: "Look out! Look out for Lutz! Look out for Sunday dinners with chicken and cranberry sauce! Look out for the only first-class hotel in Lodi! Look out! Pshaw! Lutz furnishes cleaner grub and more of it for the same money than any other house in town!"

On April 28, 1884, there was a public picnic at Wardrobe's grove on east Elm between Washington and Stockton streets, and Mr. Lutz ran a free bus from the picnic grounds to The Sargent House, advertising that here one could get "The finest meal in the country at reduced rates. Ice cream, snowflake lemonade, etc. Get into the bus and take a ride — eat, drink and be merry."

Local newspapers were high in their praise of Mr. Lutz, writing of him as being "A jolly big-hearted landlord ... a genial, accommodating gentleman," and again, "There is no more genial landlord in the upper San Joaquin than Mr. Lutz."

Some excitement was created one evening during the summer of 1884 when there was a sudden flash that illuminated the entire front of the hotel. This was followed by a slight explosion which emanated from the parlor on the second floor. On investigation, it was found that one of the hanging lamps had exploded, setting the carpet ablaze and filling the room with a dense smoke. There were loud



A parade passes in front of the Lodi Hotel.

cries for water, but before it arrived, mats had been thrown on the blazing floor and the fire was extinguished. Outside of the wrecked carpet there was little loss.

It happened that several ladies were in the room when the lamp exploded, and it was something of a miracle that none of them were injured as oil was scattered from one end of the room to the other.

In the early part of 1884, the condition of the old Salem School was being discussed. It so happened that The Sargent House had need of larger dining facilities, and the Sargent brothers, seeing the solution of this problem in the available school building, purchased the two-story structure in October of 1884. By November eighth, the building had been placed in position at the rear of The Sargent House thus making a substantial addition.

After the school house had been attached to the hotel, the following piece appeared in "The Mokelumne Maverick," April 1885: "The special attention of outside parties is called to the fine accommodations at The Sargent House. It is just the place to drive to for a pleasant rest and good dinner. The house has lately been enlarged and thoroughly renovated, and a new dining room, kitchen and a large sample room have been added. The last room is especially fitted up for the convenience of commercial travelers. Fifteen new bedrooms are also among the improvements. All the bedrooms in the hotel have been newly furnished making it one of the most desirable hotels in this state."

A billiard room was also added in 1885. During this renovation period,

the plastering was done by George Miller, and the graining by E. B. McLachlan. Mr. McLachlan and son, Francis, became extremely well-known for their excellent and outstanding work in this field.

At this time, board walks were much in evidence in the business district, and, evidently such a walk connected the hotel with the old railroad station for this piece came out in a local paper: "Mr. Lutz has been trying to tempt providence into a rain by taking up the plank walk between the hotel and the station." This comment leads to a story relating to the corner north of the hotel. It seems that the streets in Lodi were exceedingly muddy, in the winter season, and Sacramento Street, the main business thoroughfare, was no exception. Water collected along the gutter, forming a little pool at the corner. A little plank bridge was placed over the spot so ladies could cross the street without soiling their footwear and dresses. Some joke-loving wag started the saying that when the ladies crossed over the plank bridge, the frogs below looked up, blushed, then ducked their heads in shame.

Little is known about the family of Mr. Lutz except that he had two daughters, Grace and Emma Lutz who were children as of 1885. Whether there were other children has not been ascertained.

The old account book of George W. Hill, Lodi's first jeweler, noted that purchases made at the jewelry store, by Mr. Lutz, and also for watch repairs, were not paid for in cash. After each notation in the record book is indicated the number of free meals Mr. Hill and his household were to

receive at The Sargent House dining room. Credit was given for many such meals.

In November, 1884, the same month when the old Salem School was attached to the rear of The Sargent House, the Sargent brothers sold the hostelry to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Copsey for a reported \$10,000. Mr. Lutz was to remain in charge.

"The Valley Review" in June 1884 writes of the Copseys in this manner: "Mr. and Mrs. Copsey, who purchased the fine town property of George Cluff on the ninth of last month, have made arrangements to move into it this week. This couple are extensive real estate owners, numbering among their possessions some of the most valuable ranches in this and Sacramento County. They are live business people and as such Lodi will gain much from their residence here." Before moving to Lodi the Copseys were farmers.

In December, 1885, Mr. and Mrs. Copsey sold their brick saloon building adjoining The Sargent House to Mr. Barnhart of Stockton. This became the well-known Barnhart's Hall where many affairs were held in the 1880's and 1890's. Also, in December, Mrs. Copsey bought out Al Larson's skating rink, fixtures included, and Mr. A Thiel was put in charge of the rink.

In 1885, W. H. Lawrence, son of Ezekiel Lawrence, early pioneer, was writing the history of Lodi. It was run in serial form in "The Lodi Cyclone." Lawrence has this to say about the Lodi hotel situation: "Lodi is worthy of a better hotel than has ever existed in her confines. Whether it is the lack

of patronage or the inability of landlords that make such a state of affairs."

In the latter part of November, 1885, Sheriff Cunningham of Stockton took possession of The Sargent House and put in Jay Hubbard as receiver, Mr. and Mrs. Copsey having brought suit against Mr. Lutz. The Copseys claimed Mr. Lutz hadn't complied with the terms of his lease in putting up rent money. "As a continuation of the attachment, Saturday the owners brought suit against Lutz to recover \$590 due for rent on The Sargent House and grounds, for \$125 damages for alleged waste and injury of the premises, and for restitution of the premises." The plaintiffs alleged that the property was rented to the defendant for a term of five years at a rental of \$125 per month.

A few days after this information appeared in The Lodi Cyclone, another piece came out in the same paper. In those days newspaper writers were very outspoken and didn't mince words, many a well-known person receiving a public castigation. When Mr. Lutz advertised in the Lodi "Valley Review," in 1885, Mr. Lutz was spoken of highly, but when, probably to save expense, he discontinued advertising, it was a different story as the following from the same paper shows: "Good landlords are scarce. Everybody can't keep a hotel or run a newspaper, but that's what everybody thinks they can do! A landlord should be a genial, good-natured gentleman, always pleasant and polite to his guests. He should have great patience and not try to make himself the most

prominent and important personage in the company of guests. If he sells liquor, he should not knock his customers out in the first round, nor make his hotel a record of more fights than the meanest saloon in town. A good landlord makes a first-class hotel a success. Perhaps, the delinquent landlord of The Sargent House can now better appreciate the difference in the quality of printer's ink he has been using of late from that which gave him a booming business a couple of years ago." Note may be made here that "The Lodi Cyclone" and "The Valley Review" were both published by Ger-tie DeForce Cluff, pioneer publisher and editor of Lodi.

Mr. Lutz sold his lease, his furniture and everything he had in connection with the hotel to J. C. Higginbotham, of Farmington, who was going in as the new manager of The Sargent House.

Mr. Lutz and his family returned to Stockton and in April of 1896, it was reported that he was the head cook at the Stockton asylum, or the state hospital as it now is called.

It would appear that Mr. and Mrs. Copsey were not adverse to suing if they felt the situation called for it. It has been ascertained that in April, 1887, Mrs. Copsey brought suit against George Hogan, C. O. Ivory, and A. J. Larson, as well as others, to stay the removal of trees in front of The Sargent House. A local newspaper states: "The lady will lose the suit and also the trees. She will also be compelled to remove the windmill on Elm Street near Sacramento Street."

Three months later, "The Lodi Cyclone" gives out the information that Mr. and Mrs. Copsey had sold The Sargent House to a Mr. Bennett. It was also reported that the Copseys were to take a ranch on the San Joaquin River in payment for the hotel.

As Mr. Lutz figured rather prominently in Lodi papers, it is surprising how little mention is made of Mr. Higginbotham and his stay at The Sargent House.

Every new manager who took charge of the local hostelry made improvements in the building, and Mr. Higginbotham was no exception. By the middle of October, presumably in 1886, the hotel had been renovated and was ready for business with rooms renting from \$1.25 to \$2, with special rates by the week or month.



An early photo of The Sargent or Spencer House, note the trees.

Stages left the hotel, daily, except Sunday. Passengers for Calaveras County had ample time for dinner at the hotel before leaving.

In 1889, Mr. Higginbotham advertised that The Sargent House had the best and cleanest Chinese cooks in the country and that the hotel provided better food and more of it than any restaurant in Lodi. Oddly, the advertisement stated that the Lodi restaurants and The Sargent House were compelled to hire Chinese cooks. This would indicate that the effort to replace Chinese help with white cooks had not proved successful.

The following humorous incident is on record regarding Higginbotham: On Oct. 11, 1888, landlord Higginbotham discovered one of his hogs was gone. "Like a wide-awake businessman that he is, he wrote out the ensuing notice for publication in the "Lodi Sentinel:" "Lost, strayed, stolen or borrowed, one black razor-backed sow. She belongs to Higginbotham of The Sargent House. The party returning said animal to the owner will be properly rewarded. Just as he was going to bring the notice to this office, the hog came grunting around the corner of the hotel. Higginbotham stopped short, and called out, "Van! Van! Heyere comes that razorback! That's what a feller gits for advertising!"

"Why, you haven't advertised any yet," said Van."

"That don't make no difference. I was going to advertise and it's just the same. That's what I git for my good intention. If the SENTINEL had printed that there notice, old razorback would a been comin' around the corner with a whole litter of pigs!"

In August of 1889, a local newspaper mentions "The Lodi Stables" with the owners given as the Higginbotham brothers. So, it is evident that Henry Higginbotham who managed the livery stable, and who married Lillian Keagle of Lodi, was the brother of the landlord of The Sargent House.

J. C. Higginbotham's stay at The Sargent House was from 1887-1890. Then the management of the hotel changed hands again.

After J. C. Higginbotham sold out his interest in the old hotel in 1890, his brother, Henry, took over the livery stable and renamed it Carlon Stables. He also ran a feed business along with it. He later moved to Stockton in the mid-1890's having disposed of his



A carriage pauses in front of the Lodi Hotel, circa 1900.

livery stable.

In 1890, a history on San Joaquin County appeared under the title of "Pen Pictures From The Garden Of The Old World." From this volume an excerpt is given regarding The Sargent House: "The principal hotel in the place is The Sargent House where a huge fireplace, southern style, is kept well-supplied with burning wood, so that one can warm himself there, thoroughly, and quickly, with no confined or foul air to breathe. In this respect, this is the best hotel the writer has found in all his travels in the Golden State."

At the time James Caven completed his schooling in 1849, the gold rush to California was in full swing, and James got the "gold fever." He took passage on a boat which took him to California via the Horn. He arrived in San Francisco Jan. 15, 1850.

Caven went from San Francisco to Tuolumne County and mined along the Stanislaus River, from Keeler's Ferry to Robinson's Ferry, for a period of ten years. In 1860 he went to the copper mines at Copperopolis where he became underground foreman for five years.

By the year 1869, Caven gave up mining and went to San Andreas where he bought the Metropolitan Hotel. He was quite successful in this enterprise which he conducted for a period of ten years.

Having learned the hotel business, thoroughly, he went on to a larger field, buying and assuming a partnership with a Mr. Dudley of Stockton's leading hotel, The Yosemite House. This occurred about 1879 and Mr.

Caven was there seven years.

In 1886, James Caven and A. W. Rhodes of Stockton bought the franchise and property of the Stockton Street railway. The rolling stock consisted, at that time, of two cars and four mules. The partners put considerable money and planning into the venture and before long they had a considerable number of cars operating which gave to Stockton a good street railway system. In 1889 Caven and Rhodes sold out at a big profit.

A year later, in 1890, Mr. Caven purchased The Sargent House. He spent several thousand dollars renovating and refurnishing the hotel from top to bottom, making it one of the best interior hotels in the state. The hotel was said to have 32 rooms handsomely papered and carpeted and provided with superior oak furniture. Cleanliness was emphasized by the hospitable host and wholesome food was provided for guests.

The hotel was the headquarters for the New Hope (Thornton), Taison and Woodbridge stage line. The narrow gauge railroad gave additional transportation as it connected with the broad gauge at Lodi. Messengers would bring down gold, by stage, from mining towns, and stay over at the hotel.

James Caven was spoken of as being public-spirited and enterprising. He was a member of the California Pioneers, Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

By August of 1891 the name of the Sargent House had been changed to "The Lodi Hotel," thus ending an early era.



About 1914, Southern Pacific Park was decorated for Christmas festivities which attracted a large crowd.

Hale Park and Southern Pacific Park

by Maurice Hill

Lodi's oldest park, now known as Hale Park, was in the beginning, known as Wardrobe's Grove, named after R. L. Wardrobe, local pioneer, who once owned a large portion of east Lodi.

It was a square block in size and was covered with a grove of fine oak trees.

For many years this grove was Lodi's only park and was the site for numerous picnics and out-of-door social affairs.

By March of 1885 L. C. Mowry had leased Wardrobe's Grove for the coming season. Picnics could be arranged and music furnished if desired.

A notice from the Lodi Valley Review in May of 1885 reported that John Aborn was caretaker of the grove. The park was said to be "looking better than ever before. All the trees are in fine condition and a fine lot of roses and other flowers will decorate the place in another year."

By May of 1891 the locality was being called Villinger's Grove and was termed "one of the prettiest picnic places in the county."

A paper in 1893 speaks of palm trees in the park being trimmed. And in



Picnickers enjoy Wardrobe's Grove, May 1876. The grove became Hale Park.



J.C. Ferguson, judge and clothing store owner, stands in front of the municipal baths in the summer of 1917.



Crowds throng Sacramento Street in front of Southern Pacific Park during the 1907 Tokay Carnival.

1894 there is mention of a dancing pavilion being in the grove.

In June of 1909 W. F. Schoonmaker of El Paso, Texas wrote the following letter to the Editor of the Lodi Sentinel:

"Editor of The Sentinel: I see by the Sentinel that the grove owned by the Church of God is for sale. Is there not some way that it can be purchased by the town and kept for the use of the public?"

"Call a big mass meeting and devise some way by which the ownership of this beautiful grove can be acquired by the town. Although I am not yet a resident of Lodi I hope soon to be and I count myself as one of you and I feel that it will be a very serious mistake if we do not secure this property now when we have a chance to do so. There is always some way out."

It has been said that during the period that the Church of God owned the property, they had a church on the lot. That the City came into possession of the grove years ago is now a well established fact.

As the years passed, one by one, the great oaks began to disappear from the grove. Now there are fewer of the splendid trees; however the park re-

mains a picturesque spot.

During the early 1900's a band stand was built near the center of the park and through the years the Tokay Band was heard here in summer concerts. Large crowds attended these out-of-door programs.

When the city took over the location it was officially named Hale Park honoring Frank O. Hale, a member of the first city council of 1906.

In 1910 the 100'x75' swimming pool at the northwest corner of the park was covered with a new municipal bath building. Built by the City with public donations, the water for the baths came from an artesian well on north Church Street near the Mokelumne River. It cost 10¢ to swim, although the swimming classes held each spring were free.

Recreation for the youth of Lodi was held each summer in the park. A small building on the east side had wood working tools for boys and an area for girls to make things. Tennis courts and restrooms were added later.

After World War I a small canon was placed at the southwest corner of Hale Park. The concrete foundation it rested on has just been removed, but the gun

was sacrificed to the scrap iron drive of World War II.

Southern Pacific Park

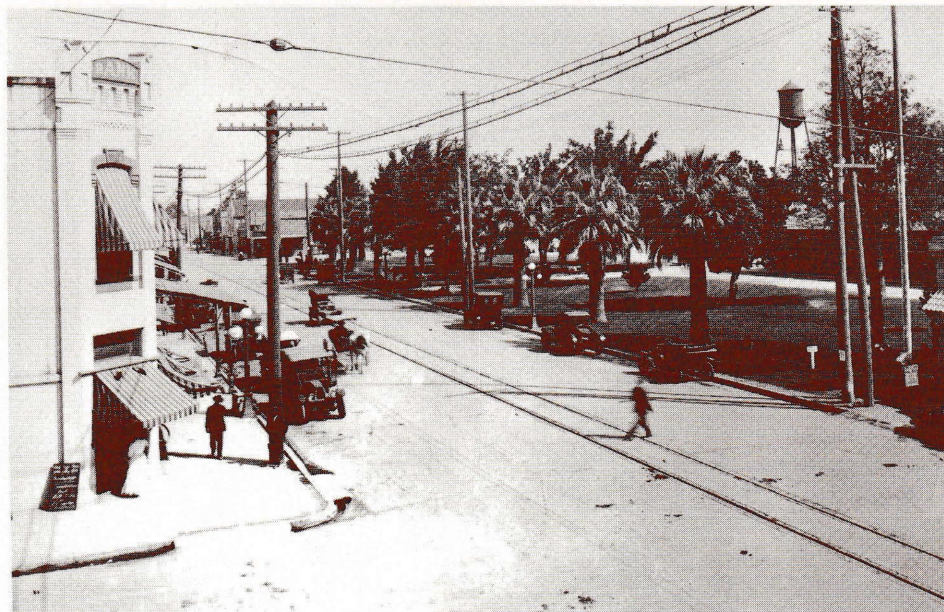
In April of 1887, a meeting was held in Barnhart's Hall by the citizens of Lodi. A committee of three, Messrs. Ivory, Dougherty and Martin were appointed to consult Mr. Knight, civil engineer, in regard to setting out stakes in preparation for the grading of the railroad reserve to be used as a park. Mr. Knight donated his service.

Also a committee of seven, Messrs. Larson, Rixon, Hogan, Smith, Corson, Clark and Williams were appointed to collect funds for the grading.

The lease from the Southern Pacific Railroad Company was read and accepted. This indenture gave Lodi the use of the reserve for a park until the company might need it for its own purposes.

The lease granted to E. Lawrence, W. C. Green, George Hogan, A. J. Laron, C. O. Ivory and F. H. Martin, directors of the North San Joaquin Board of Trade, the privilege and permission "for your society to beautify the station grounds of the company west of the track between Elm and Walnut streets excepting a space of said ground 209

feet in length south of Pine Street." It was stipulated that the plots should be fenced and ornamented with trees, flowers and shrubbery and that said plots should be laid out with walks and promenades. It was signed by R. H. Pratt, assistant general superintendent at San Francisco, March 31, 1887. Mr. Knight was the civil engineer in charge. A piece in the Lodi Cyclone for May 5, 1887 notes: "The lovely park converted from the native sod of the railroad reserve on the west side of the track is just too lovely for anything — no nasty weeds or incipient wild-flowers." However, there still must have been work to do for in February of 1888 D. L. Smith took his team and with an assistant plowed the park. His service was voluntary for which he received the thanks of Lodi.



Three views of Southern Pacific Park, showing the stately palms and other trees that once graced the area. Ceda Parody is the woman in the bottom photo.



In 1894 the old windmill that had stood in the railroad reserve, near the freight depot was removed.

In 1902 the park was being re-beautified; the palms and ornamental trees were trimmed and the ground was being plowed and smoothed. Trees and shrubs were set out by J. J. Anderson. There was said to be the need of a railing about the park as the wooden racks were constantly breaking and coming down.

For many years a row of tall stately palms graced the west side of the reserve between Pine and Elm streets. But the park, in later years, deteriorated; the palms vanishing from the scene with a couple of exceptions. The park was used to its greatest advantage during the 1907 Tokay Carnival.

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